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ROSA DeLAURO

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

02-005458-C

November 19, 2002

The Honorable Donald L. Evans  
Secretary of Commerce  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing today in reference to an appeal which has been submitted by Islander East, LLC to overturn the October 15, 2002 denial issued by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the proposed construction of the Islander East pipeline. As you may know, the pipeline would extend through five Connecticut communities, including Branford, Connecticut where it would enter the Long Island Sound and continue to Shoreham, New York.

After thorough review, the Connecticut DEP determined that the project was not consistent with the State's federally approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). The DEP found that, as proposed, the construction and installation of this pipeline would have negative impacts on water quality, shellfish habitat, water dependant use, and tidal wetlands.

The Connecticut CZMP was designed to balance national energy interests with the protection of Connecticut's environment. The Islander East proposal simply does not meet the basic standards which have been set to facilitate this balance.

In addition to the DEP's objections, the Islander East project has also been reviewed by several federal agencies in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Air Act. To date, both the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have expressed numerous concerns with the proposed project.

As the State's regulatory enforcement agency, the Connecticut DEP is best positioned to judge the environmental impact of this project. Their determination of the project's inconsistency with Connecticut's CZMP is well reasoned and based on sound environmental considerations. We strongly oppose the construction and installation of the Islander East pipeline and accordingly, urge you to deny Islander East's appeal to overturn the DEP's determination of inconsistency with Connecticut's CZMP.

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We appreciate your consideration of this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
U.S. Senator



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN  
U.S. Senator



ROSA L. DeLAURO  
Member of Congress

RLD/jpf